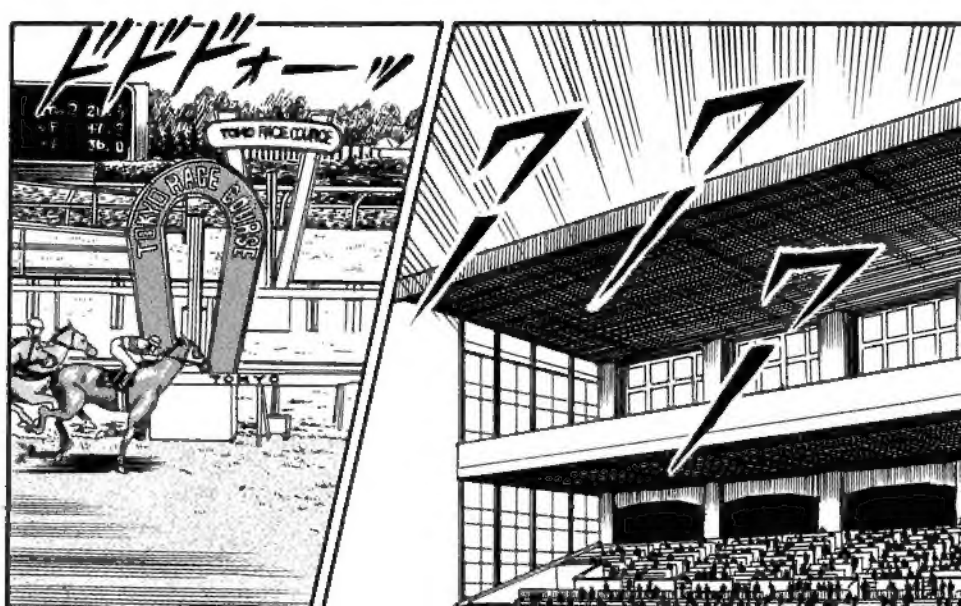
MORITA AND GINJI HIRAI,
IN THE WAKE OF THE KAMUI TRAGEDY,
AFTER THAT
PART WAYS
THERE IS NO CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO
THOUGH MORE THAN A YEAR HAS PASSED,

MARCH, 1994. TETSUO MORITA'S RETIREMENT

第90話

THE PATH OF HORSERACING!! THE PATH OF GAMBLING!!

THE TIME IS AROUND ... SPRING OF 1995 ...
T/N: THE JSA IS A FICTIONALIZED VERSION OF THE JRA, OR JAPANESE RACING ASSOCIATION
FOR THE JSA ...
BUSINESS IS AS GOOD AS EVER, I SEE.
ざわ…
ざわ…



WHEN THEY'RE IN DIRE STRAITS,
OUT OF ALL OF THE COMPANIES IN JAPAN, INCLUDING BANKS,
A GROWTH RATE OF OVER 5%.
EVERY YEAR, THEY HAVE SALES OF MORE THAN 3 TRILLION.
ONLY THE BUSINESS HERE IS STILL GOOD.
HUH ...
IT WON'T BE MUCH OF A BLOW ...
IF IT'S FROM THE JSA, NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY YOU PULL OUT OF THEM.

DEFINITELY ...
THAT'LL BE TOUGH WORK ...
WHATEVER IT TAKES, WE'LL TAKE A BITE OUT OF THEM...!
FROM THE JSA... HUH.
SQUEEZING MONEY,
FUFU ...

IN ADDI-TION ...
THE JSA IS REGULATED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.
NO ...
CAN WE BRING HIM OVER TO OUR SIDE...? THE CHAIRMAN ...
THEIR ENORMOUS INFLUENCE THREATENS EVEN US.
THE JSA RAKES IN MORE THAN 400 BILLION ANNUALLY.
THEN ...

THIS TIME, WE'LL STEP DIRECTLY INTO THEIR ARENA.
.....
WE'LL SQUEEZE HIM DRY.
WE'LL TAKE A BITE OUT OF THAT MAN.
THE CURRENT PEOPLE PARTY'S PRESIDENT, YOUICHI KOUNO.
THE REAL TOP OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IS,

FUFU ...
GIN-SAN ...
THAT IS, YOU'RE PLANNING ON FIXING RACES?
YOU MEAN HORSE RACING...?
BY HORSES ...
HORSES...?
WE'LL COMPETE WITH HORSES.
.....

?
HE WAS AROUND HERE UNTIL A LITTLE BIT AGO ...
I THINK WE'LL BE INTRO-DUCING A NEW MEMBER.
ANYWAY, TODAY.
WELL, WE'LL TALK MORE ABOUT THAT LATER.
FUFU ...
THE ONE WEARING HIS HAT BACKWARDS ...
THAT KID.
OVER THERE.
YEAH ...
...HIM...?
IT CAN MAKE FOR A PRETTY BAD SCENE.
ALL OF US LOOK PRETTY VILLAINOUS, DON'T WE.
KUKUKU ...
WILL IT REALLY BE OKAY?
IS RECRUITING A BRAT LIKE THAT A GOOD THING...?

.....
EH...?
SO HE'S A REPLACE-MENT...?
WE DEFINITELY NEED TO RECRUIT HIS TALENT.
FOR THIS JOB,
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON.
THOUGH, THAT'S PRETTY TRIVIAL.
WELL, FOR JUST THIS ONE TIME ...
HE ISN'T NEARLY AS ATTRACTIVE AS MORITA.
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
HAHAHA ...
ARE YOU THINKING OF USING HIM TO REPLACE MORITA, WHO WE TRAINED UP SO NICELY...?
YEAH ...
ARE YOU GONNA GO BUDDY UP WITH HIM NOW...?
WHAT THE HELL...!
EH...?
I'M GONNA PUT A LITTLE OF MY PLAN INTO ACTION.
WELL THEN,
WE'LL BE BEST FRIENDS ...
BY THE FINAL RACE,
WHAAAT, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL BE A PROBLEM.
THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST TIME SPEAKING.
THOUGH I THOROUGHLY OBSERVED HIM BEFORE,

?……
YO
…

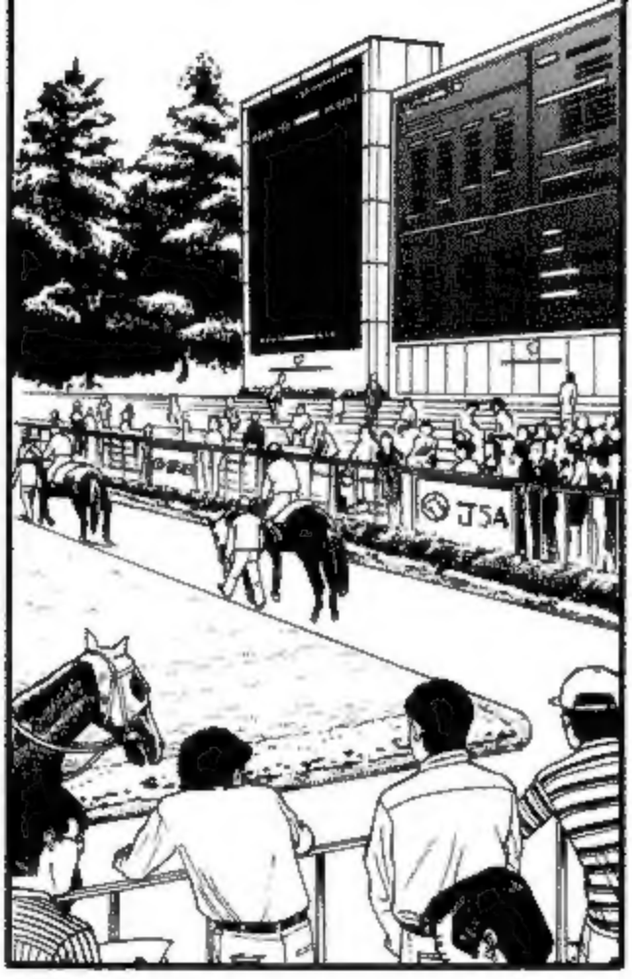
KUKUKU
…
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, POPS…!?
WH…
AH
…
SO HOW'VE YOU BEEN DOING UP 'TIL NOW…?

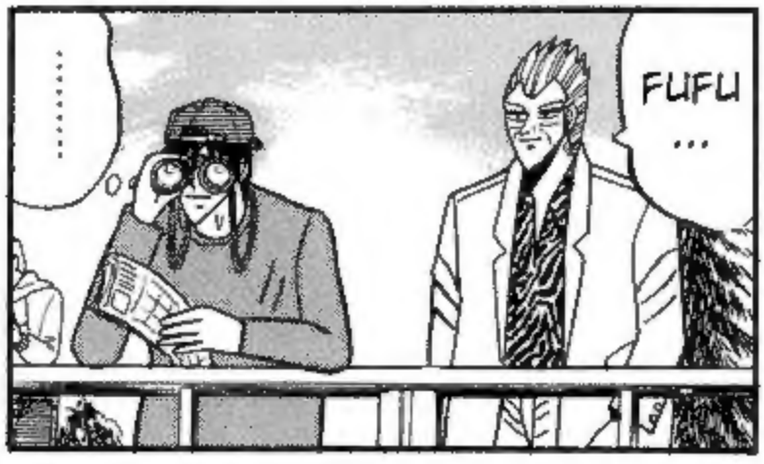
YOU WERE ONLY PAYING ATTENTION TO THE DIVIDENDS WHILE BUYING THESE, RIGHT…?
BEING A LITTLE MORE RANDOM CAN BE A GOOD THING …
THIS WAS TOTALLY OFF THE MARK.
WOW
…

ARE YOU PICKING A FIGHT WITH ME TO TRY TO SELL ME SOMETHING, OLD MAN…?
EH…?
WHAT…?
OR
…
WITH THEIR OWN MONEY
…
PEOPLE CAN BUY WHATEVER THEY WANT,
I CAN DO WHAT I WANT…!
BACK OFF…!

I JUST THOUGHT WE TWO HORSE RACING FANS,
ON THE CONTRARY ...
WOULD GET ALONG WELL ...
IT'S A MISUNDER-STANDING.
NOT AT ALL ...
I HAVE NO SUCH DESIRE.
THAT KINDA STARTED OUT AS A MESS, HUH ...
KUKUKU ...
KUKUKU ...
HE BECOMES THEIR BEST FRIEND ...
EVEN THOUGH HE'S ALREADY PRETTY OLD, HE'S GOOD AT INGRATIATING HIMSELF WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ...
GIN-SAN'S GOOD AT IT.
THAT'S ANOTHER OF HIS TALENTS.
FUFUFU ...
KUKUKU ...
YOU'RE NOT WRONG ABOUT THAT ...
BUT HE'S DEFINITELY BAD COMPANY...!

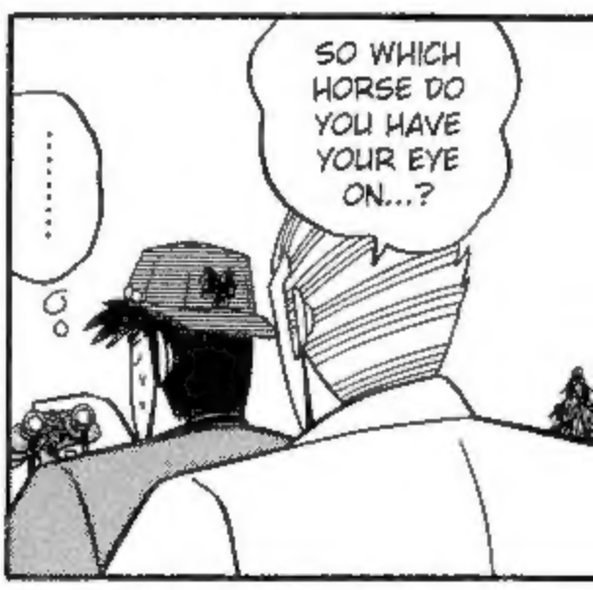
.....

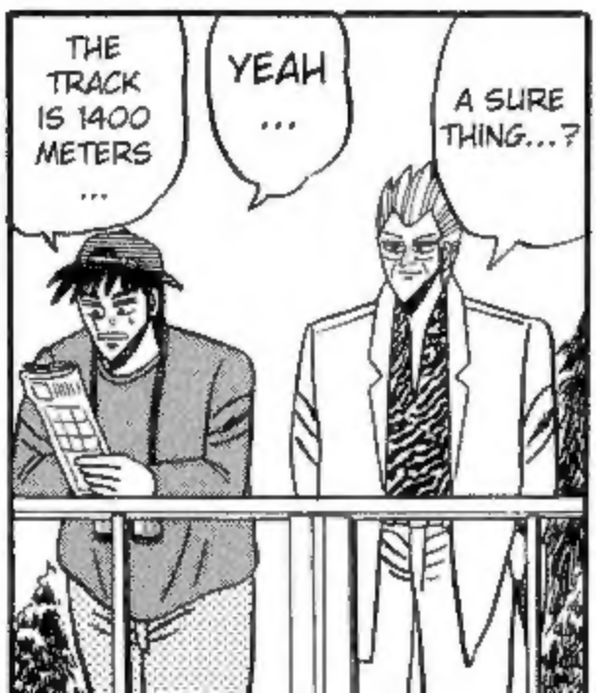

JSA


.....
FUFU ...

.....
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I ASKED WHICH ONE YOU HAD YOUR EYE ON.

.....


.....
SO WHICH HORSE DO YOU HAVE YOUR EYE ON...?

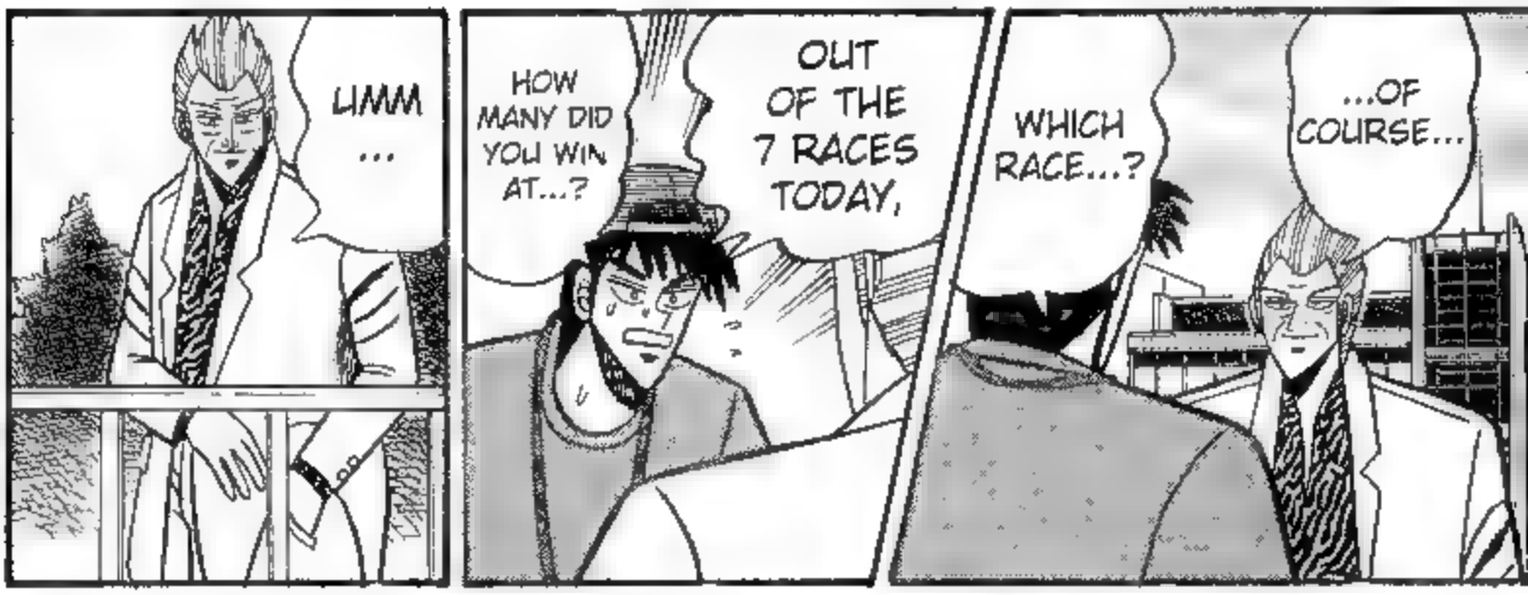

THE TRACK IS 1400 METERS ...
YEAH ...
A SURE THING...?

IS A SURE THING, RIGHT...?
THIS RACE,

SHUDDUP ...

HMM ...
EISEI BOY, HUH ...
HE'LL ALSO BE CLOSE TO THE INNER CURVE.
AND EVEN BETTER,
SO HE'LL GET AHEAD IN THIS RACE ...
IF IT'S THAT DISTANCE, HE CAN CUT AWAY EASILY.
FIRST OF ALL, FOR THE FAVORITE, EISEI BOY,
.....
YOUR READ OF THE RACE ...
IT SEEMS A LITTLE TOO SIMPLISTIC, DOESN'T IT...?
.....
I DON'T KNOW ...
-BETS...!
YOUR BETS!
WIN...?
DID YOU WIN...?
NN...?
IF IT WERE DECIDED SO EASILY, HORSE-RACING WOULD BE SIMPLE.
POPS ...
YOU'VE BEEN LECTURING ME ALL SMUGLY ...
FOR A WHILE NOW ...

SO HAVE YOU WON ANYTHING...!?


UMM...
HOW MANY DID YOU WIN AT...?
OUT OF THE 7 RACES TODAY,
WHICH RACE...?
...OF COURSE...

SO FAR, I'VE WON AT EVERY SINGLE ONE...
東京
2ユーワクロス
★★3000
EH...?
7 RACES, HUH...

95年 1回2日
2 ランダムハンデ
東京
レース
複勝式
PLACE SHOU
PLACE BETTING
JSA東京
WH
...
NO WAY...!
YEAH
...
PLACE BETTING...?
ALTHOUGH YOU WIN IF THE HORSE YOU BET ON ENTERS THE TOP 3 SPOTS, YOUR WINNINGS WILL ALSO BE LOW
FUFU
...
A GUY LIKE YOU, WHO ONLY HAS THESE CHEAP WINS
...
PLACE BETTING DOESN'T EVEN COUNT...!
SHOULDN'T ACT SO HIGH AND MIGHTY
...
ARE YOU AN IDIOT...!?

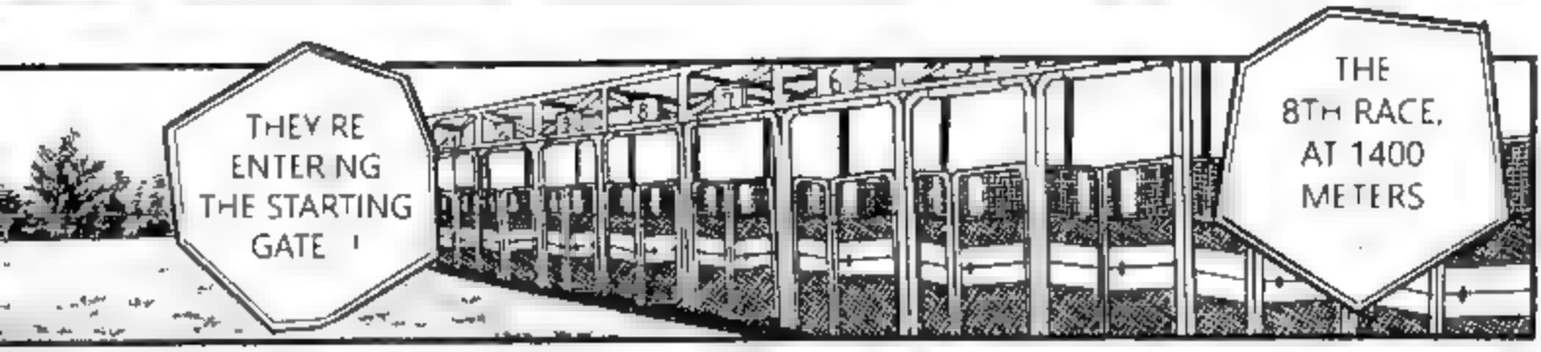
THIS RHYTHM IS IMPORTANT ...
IN THE SAME WAY, IT'LL BE BAD FOR A PERSON WHO KEEPS LOSING.
IF YOU KEEP WINNING, YOU'LL DEVELOP YOUR OWN RHYTHM.
EVEN IF YOUR RETURNS ARE LOW,
WINNING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
WHEN IT COMES TO GAMBLING ...

GOING FOR PLACE BETTING IS A GOOD STRATEGY.
WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR MENTAL STATE,
.....
SORT OF LIKE A CERTAIN SOMEONE, IT SEEMS.
HE'LL LOSE HIS BALANCE.

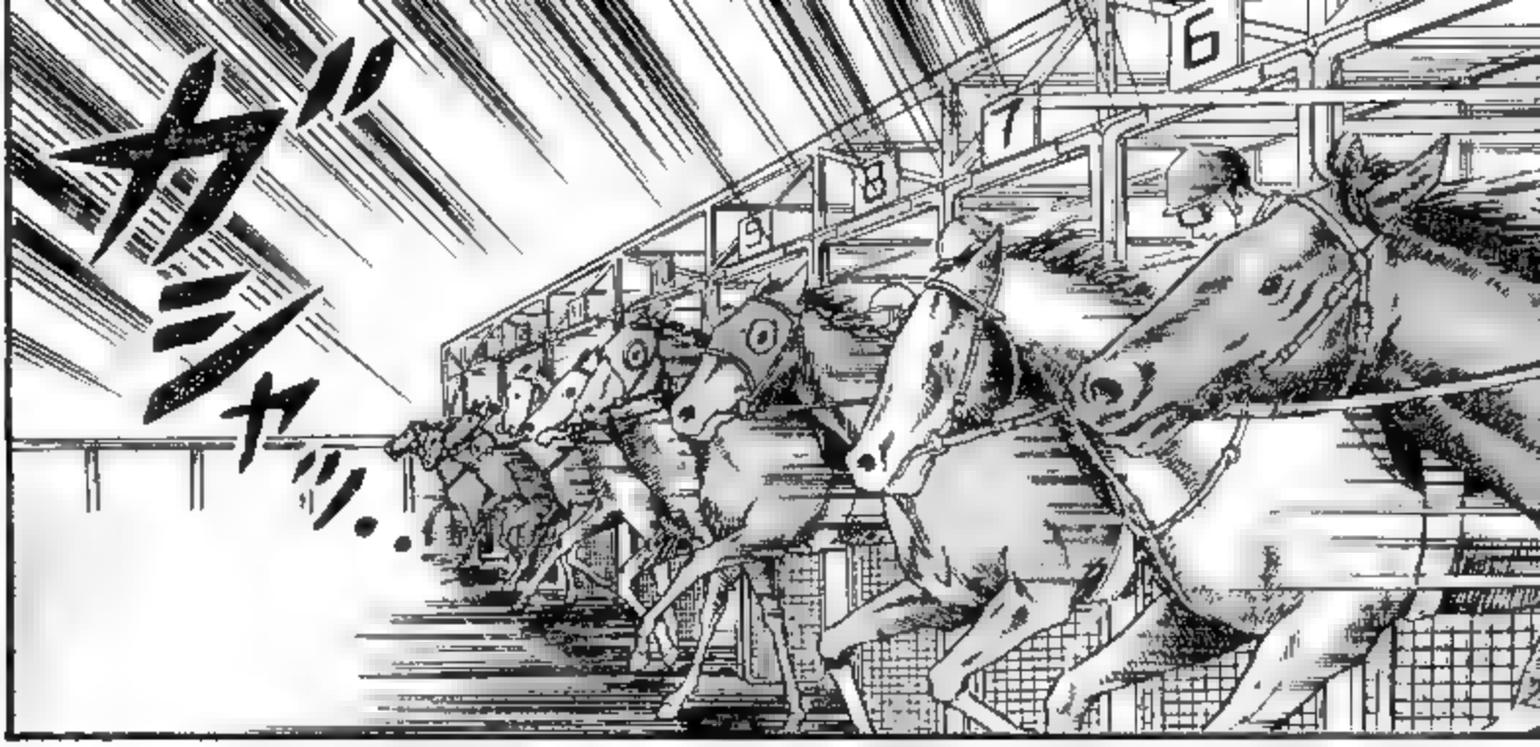
THE DEDUCTION RATE IS LOW ...
THAT MEANS YOU'LL HAVE A GOOD RETURN.
IF YOU COMPARE IT TO THE 1ST OR 2ND PLACE BETTING SYSTEM OR THE MUTUAL BETTING SYSTEM,
THEY COME WITH AN EXTRA PAYMENT OF 5%.
FOR BOTH THE SINGLE-TICKET SYSTEM AND THE PLACE BETTING SYSTEM,
ISN'T 5% GOOD...?
ALSO ...
5%?

WITH THE 1ST OR 2ND PLACE BETTING SYSTEM OR THE MUTUAL BETTING SYSTEM, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
WITH PLACE BETTING, YOU CAN SAY THAT THERE'S NO LOSS.
IF YOU BUY IT WITH 3 POINTS, IT WILL ALWAYS BE OFF BY 2 POINTS.
ADDITIONALLY ...
THEN THAT 5% WILL COME INTO EFFECT ..
IF YOU DO IT FOR A WHILE,

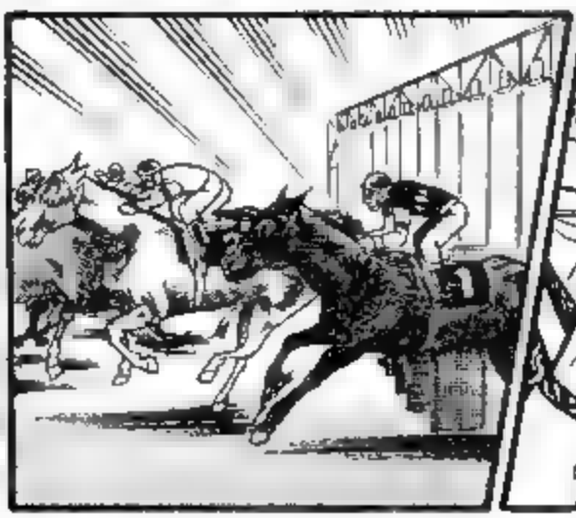
HMPH...!
.....
IF YOU BUY IT WITH 3 POINTS, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU'LL WIN ON ALL 3 POINTS
RIGHT...?
WITH PLACE BETTING,


THEY RE ENTER NG THE STARTING GATE !
THE 8TH RACE, AT 1400 METERS

HE'LL DEFINITELY COME...!
.....
IS HE COMING...? EISEI BOY.
...FUFU...


ガシャ…!!

A LATE START...!



AH
...

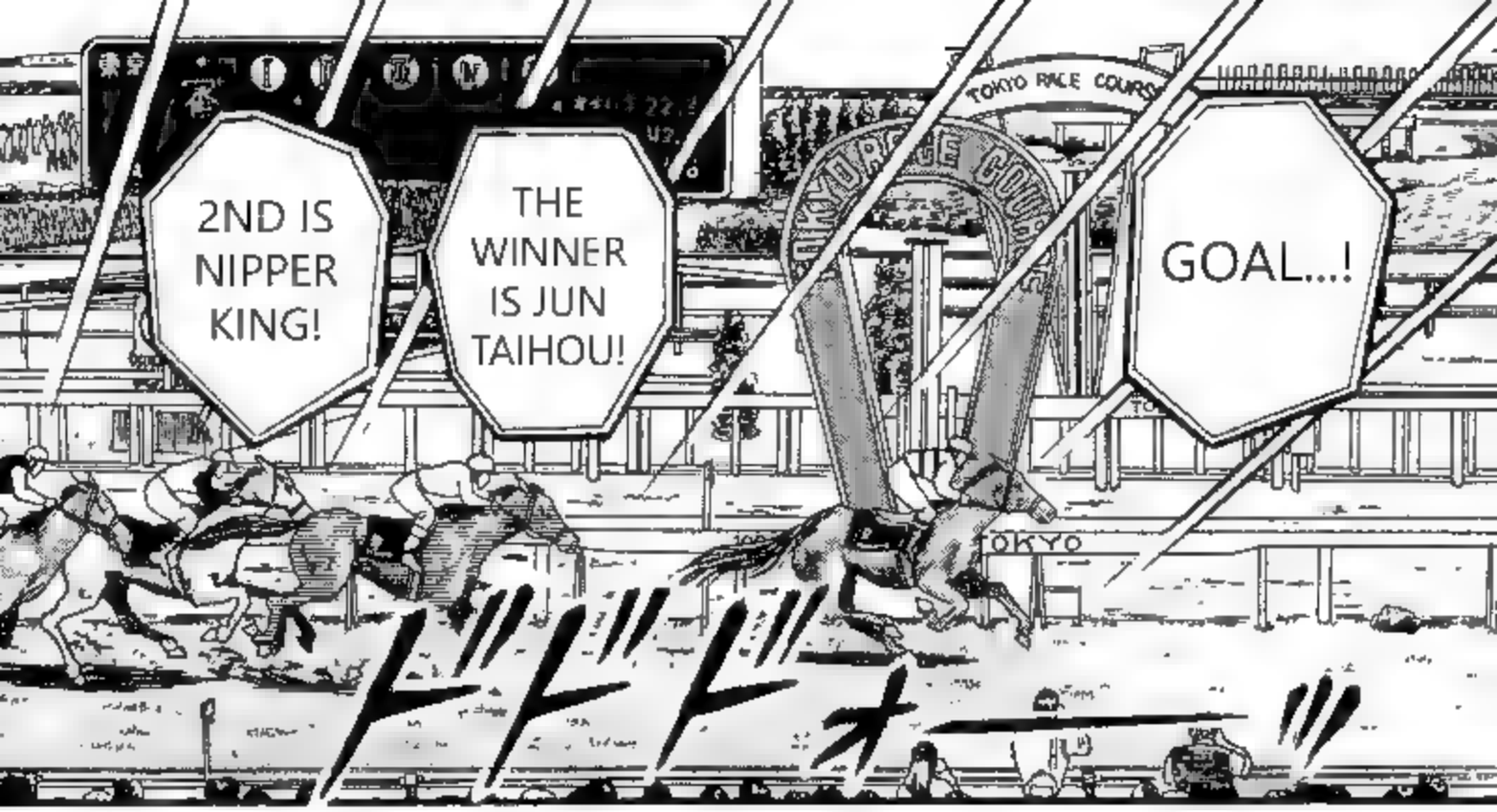
IT'S NOT OVER YET...!
HOLD ON
...

HE CAN COME BACK FROM THIS...!
THE OTHERS AREN'T VERY FAST...!

KUKUKU
...

DUMBASS...!.
PIECE OF SHIT...!
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING...!?

*TN: TOKYO'S RACETRACK IS LOCATED IN FUCHUU CITY

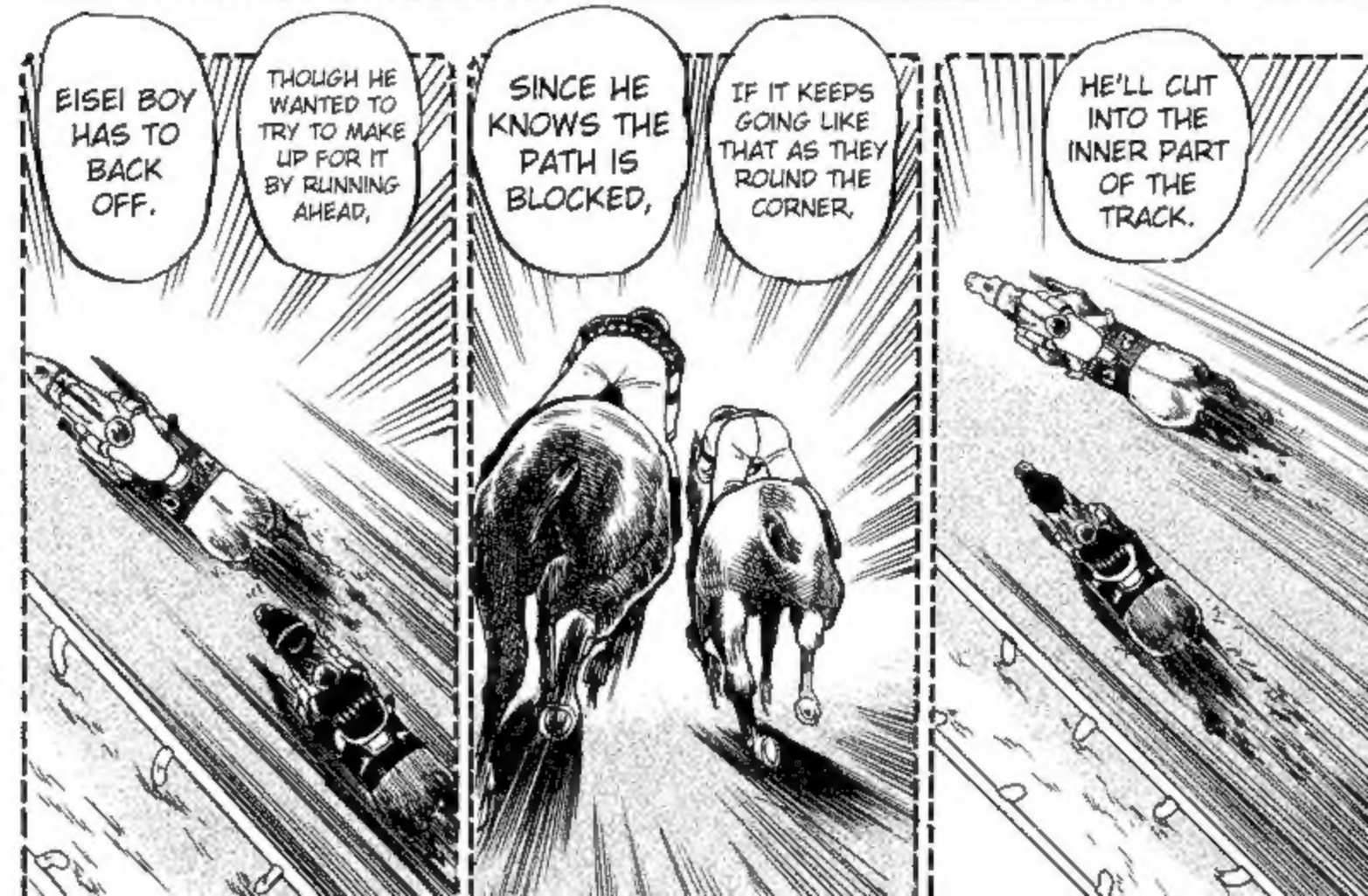


THE FAVORITE, EISEI BOY, HAS SUFFERED A CRUSHING DEFEAT!

THE DIVIDENDS FOR PLACE BETTING SKYROCKET.
WHEN A BIG FAVORITE IS SNUFFED OUT,
UU ...
WELL, BY ABOUT 20 TIMES, ANYWAY ...
東京
'95年
6
.....
.....
THAT MAKES AN 8 MATCH STREAK ...
YOU MUST HAVE... SOME KIND OF REASONING.
WHY DID YOU THINK EISEI BOY WOULD LOSE...?
FUFU ...
THEN LET ME ASK YOU THIS ...
IF YOU WANNA BRAG ...
NN...?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY...!?

I CAN SEE WHY YOU'D CHOOSE HIM ...
ADDITIONALLY, IF HE'S ON THE INNER PART OF THE TRACK, SINCE HE'LL BE GOING THE SHORTEST DISTANCE,
HOWEVER ...
2
1
THE FASTEST HORSE HAS THE ADVANTAGE.
FOR A 1400 METER TRACK,
IT'S SIMPLE ...

IN THAT TIME, THE HORSE IN THE 2ND POSITION WILL CUT HIM OFF.
IF YOU HAVE A LATE START, LIKE THIS TIME,
2
ONE FALSE STEP, AND YOU'LL END UP IN HELL.
THE INNER POSITION IS TRICKY ...


EISEI BOY HAS TO BACK OFF.
THOUGH HE WANTED TO TRY TO MAKE UP FOR IT BY RUNNING AHEAD,
SINCE HE KNOWS THE PATH IS BLOCKED,
IF IT KEEPS GOING LIKE THAT AS THEY ROUND THE CORNER,
HE'LL CUT INTO THE INNER PART OF THE TRACK.

THE RIDERS ARE ALL PROS.
THEY WON'T FAIL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPONENT'S SLIP-UP.
THEY'LL WORK TOGETHER TO CRUSH HIM.
AFTER THAT,
ONE BY ONE, THE OTHER HORSES ON THE OUTSIDE,
WILL CUT HIM OFF.
WHY ...
...DID YOU THINK HE'D HAVE A LATE START...?
.....
BUT HE'LL NEVER REACH IT.
WITH HIS HORSE'S LEG STRENGTH, HE'LL MAKE IT TO 100 METERS FROM THE GOAL,
HE'LL BE STUCK WITH THE GARBAGE HORSES FROM BEGINNING TO END.
AS YOU'D EXPECT, IT TAKES TIME TO GET ALL THE HORSES TO THEIR GATES.
IN THE MEANTIME, EISEI BOY, WHO WENT EARLIER,
BUT HOW MANY ANIMALS ARE IN THE PADDOCK? THERE ARE HORSES STUFFED INSIDE ...
IT'S NOT A SITUATION WHERE THE HORSES ARE LIKELY TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY TO THEIR GATE.
IS THE FIRST IN LINE TO ENTER THE STARTING GATE.
NUMBER 1, EISEI BOY, AT THE FIRST GATE,
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM IF THEY ALL IMMEDIATELY ENTER THE GATE.

THERE ARE OTHER REASONS HE'D HAVE A LATE START.
AND WELL, BESIDES THAT,

NATURALLY, HE'LL GET AGITATED.
HORSES DON'T LIKE SMALL SPACES.
THAT MAKES HIM MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A LATE START.

...HAD TO WAIT INSIDE THAT NARROW GATE.

BUT YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME ...

IT'S GIVING ME A BAD FEELING ...
JUST SAY IT...!

FUFU ...
...WHAT...

銀と金◆第90話◆完

EH...?

MATCH-FIXING ...

NOT DEAD YET.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANOTHER HORSE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

TRANSLATIONS/CLEANING: TEABUN
CLEANING/TYPESETTING/PROOFING: XA